

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1540, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8619–S8691

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1996–2007, and S. Res. 348. **Pages S8679–80**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 789, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office”.

H.R. 2422, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, as the “Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office”.

S. 1236, to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels.

S. 1821, to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts, with an amendment. **Page S8679**

Measures Passed:

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 92, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to correct the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1540. **Page S8664**

Fallen Heroes of 9/11 Act: Senate passed H.R. 3421, to award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. **Page S8689**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 93, providing for a correction to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 2845. **Pages S8689–90**

Targeting Transnational Drug Trafficking Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from

further consideration of S. 1612, to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S8690**

Durbin (for Feinstein/Grassley) Amendment No. 1464, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S8690**

40th Anniversary of the National Cancer Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 347, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the National Cancer Act of 1971 and the more than 12,000,000 survivors of cancer alive today because of the commitment of the United States to cancer research and advances in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S8690–91**

Measures Considered:

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3630, to provide incentives for the creation of jobs. **Page S8673**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Saturday, December 17, 2011. **Page S8673**

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 86 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. 230), Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1540, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S8632–S8664**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 95 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 231), Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Pages S8625–28, S8664–65, S8691

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Michael A. Raynor, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin.

Jacob Walles, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Tunisian Republic.

Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2014.

Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2016.

Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2017.

David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2012.

David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2018.

Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2013.

11 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Foreign Service. **Page S8691**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Craig Becker, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2014, which was sent to the Senate on January 26, 2011. **Page S8691**

Messages from the House: **Page S8677**

Measures Referred: **Page S8677**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S8677, S8691**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8677–78**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S8679**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8680–81**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8681–88**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8676–77**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S8689**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8689**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8689**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—231) **Pages S8664–65**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, December 16, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8691.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael T. Scuse, of Delaware, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, who was introduced by Senator Coons, and Chester John Culver, of Iowa, who was introduced by Senators Harkin and Grassley, and Bruce J. Sherrick, of Illinois, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Farm Credit Administration, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Michael A. Sheehan, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Brad Carson, of Oklahoma, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, both of the Department of Defense, and 832 nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FISH

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine environmental risks of genetically engineered fish, after receiving testimony from Ronald L. Stotish, AquaBounty Technologies, Inc., Waltham, Massachusetts; John Epifanio, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign; George H. Leonard, Ocean Conservancy Aquaculture Program, Santa Cruz, California; and Paul Greenberg, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1108, to provide local communities with tools to make solar permitting more efficient, with an amendment;